



23 February 2022

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**Official Information Act Request**

You have asked for information about skin cancers.

*I am covering the issue of skin cancer care in New Zealand for TVNZ and would like to know the current size of the waiting list for all skin cancer referrals to your DHB as follows:*

- *Initial consultation appointment for suspected or confirmed BCC, SCC and melanoma*
- *Surgical appointment for melanoma excision*
- *Surgical appointment for BCC or SCC excision*

*I would also like to know to what extent, if any, your DHB funds GPs or private providers to carry out any SCC, BCC or melanoma excisions on an annual basis (e.g. for 2021).*

Northland DHB General Surgery and Ear Nose and Throat clinicians perform skin excisions in a minor procedures clinic and in theatre. The Skin Procedures clinics are typically for minor lesions which require an initial biopsy or excision/re-excision. Theatre cases are for more complex cases that may require wider or deeper biopsy or excision/re-excision. Plastic Surgery clinicians also excise skin lesions in theatre for difficult body sites or for patients who have had an initial excision where the biopsy result requires further excision and plastic surgeon involvement

**NDHB waiting list for BCC, SCC or non-melanoma skin lesions as at 10/02/2022**

<b>Speciality</b>	<b><u>Skin Procedures Clinic</u></b>	<b><u>Skin Procedures Clinic</u></b>	<b><u>Operating Theatre</u></b>
	<b>Total patients waiting for first treatment</b>	<b>Total patients waiting for followup review / treatment</b>	<b>Total patients on the Surgical Waiting List</b>
General Surgery	227	103	20
Ear Nose and Throat	51	22	21
Plastic Surgery	0	0	10

Six patients are currently under investigations for possible melanoma and are waiting for an initial biopsy or their biopsy result. There are no confirmed melanoma patients currently waiting for excision.

Northland DHB outsources SCC, BCC and melanoma excisions to private surgery and a GP with a special interest in skin issues. We are reviewing our investment in this area to ensure we are meeting the demand for skin cancer management. In 2021 excisions were performed on 156 outsourced patients.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at [communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
**Chief Executive**